

budget hawks. Tomorrow we are set to slash up to \$50 billion from essential investments in America in order to cut taxes for the wealthiest 1 percent. To pay for those tax cuts, we are cutting health care, education, community investments, heating assistance, and nutritional programs. American taxpayers all the while are being asked to carry \$445 billion invested in Iraq's war. In Iraq we have built and renovated 110 primary health care centers, vaccinated 3.2 million children, but right here this budget by the Republicans is cutting \$10 billion from Medicaid.

In Iraq we have rehabilitated 2,700 schools, trained 36,000 secondary school teachers. In America, we are cutting \$806 million from public school funding and college assistance by billions of dollars. We have funded 3,100 community development projects in Iraq, but this Congress is cutting \$250 million from community development block grants.

Madam Speaker, it is our duty to rebuild Iraq, but Iraq's future should not come at the expense of America's. This Congress should be working to leave America stronger in the future, not weaker.

REGULATING GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTITIES

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that may come before the floor of this House next week. It is the regulations of GSEs, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These were institutions that were created by Congress with the main purpose of providing liquidity in the mortgage market and also to provide affordable housing for lower income families.

Unfortunately, over the years they have left their mark, and they have been plagued by multiple accounting scandals.

I commend the chairmen, Chairmen OXLEY and BAKER, for what they are doing, drafting legislation to address it; but unfortunately the bill does not go far enough. The crux of the problem is that there is no limit to the size of their portfolio, their balance sheets, the amount of debt they have. Right now it is around \$1.5 trillion, \$1.7 trillion in debt on their financial sheets. A failure in the system would mean that the savings and loan scandals of a few years ago would pale in comparison.

I will conclude by quoting Allen Greenspan who testified that without restrictions on the size of the GSE balance sheets, we put at risk our ability to preserve safe and sound financial markets in the United States. We must do more to regulate and rein in our GSEs.

PENTAGON'S SPIN MACHINE AND THE CANCELLATION OF ED SCHULTZ'S SHOW

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, according to its own mandate, the Armed Forces Network is supposed to provide political programming that is characterized by fairness and balance, and should provide "reasonable opportunities for the presentation of conflicting views on important controversial public issues."

Now, the Bush administration's Pentagon has ignored that mandate, choosing to air Rush Limbaugh as its only daily political programming. This is the same man who spent weeks condoning and trivializing the abuse, torture, and rape of Iraqi prisoners. Should this be the only political voice that our soldiers hear daily around the world?

On Monday, our soldiers were finally supposed to hear a differing voice, liberal radio talk show host Ed Schultz. However, the Pentagon called to inform Schultz minutes before his debut that they were pulling his show. Why? They did not give him an answer. Schultz tried to explain this decision to his listeners, saying on Monday that the Pentagon does not want dissenting voices or any other kind of speech unless it is going to be promotional for them.

Madam Speaker, perhaps more than anyone else our troops abroad deserve to hear all political opinions from home. Remember, this is a democracy.

DEMOCRATS AND THE \$61 BILLION BARGAIN BUDGET

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, if Democrats had their way, Americans would be forced to pay higher taxes to cover the billions of dollars of excessive government spending proposed by Democrats every year. Yesterday, while opposing tax cuts for hard-working American families, Democrat Leader NANCY PELOSI conveniently forgot that her party has proposed to increase the Federal budget by \$61 billion in only 3 years. If \$61 billion is a vision of fiscal restraint, this is an obvious misinterpretation of the facts.

As Democrats search for ways to spend more taxpayer money, House Republicans are working hard to decrease the deficit and eliminate frivolous government programs. Yesterday, we announced a plan to terminate 98 unnecessary programs and save taxpayers more than \$4.3 billion. House Republicans will continue to work for fiscal discipline because, if left up to Minority Leader PELOSI, the budget would be at least \$61 billion larger as Democrats

continue their worn-out policies of tax and spend.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

WATER OBJECTIVES

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the turmoil surrounding the Katrina aftermath and some of the winds of change here in Washington, DC, obscures the fact that every 15 seconds a child dies needlessly and hundreds of millions of people worldwide are sick from waterborne diseases. But a small bright spot is emerging for the United States leadership potential on this issue. I commend Senator FRIST for his personal concern and leadership in the other body and bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Democratic leader Senator REED. In the foreign ops bill there is \$200 million in the Senate version dedicated for water objectives, a significant increase given that we are currently only spending \$8 million in the entire continent of Africa.

We await floor action on our bill out of the House International Relations Committee, the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, where Congress can act to pull together the pieces for a global water strategy. It is easily within our power to meet our commitments to extend safe drinking water and sanitation to over a billion people in need.

SPENDING REDUCTIONS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, if House liberals had their way, last year we would have spent \$7.4 billion more on social programs, and here we are in the middle of a war on terrorism. We are facing new expenses with that war. We are working to rebuild after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the Democrats are saying, spend more, spend more.

Madam Speaker, the American people need to know what that means. When they say spend more, it means the American people are going to turn over more of their hard-earned money. Republicans in this House, from our newest Members to our leadership, are talking about how to reduce spending. Democrats are either staying quiet and hoping to avoid this subject or simply ignoring the bottom line and calling for increases in their pet projects. Their leadership consistently fails to do anything but complain and is not endorsing spending reductions.

Enough is enough. If the liberals in this body had their way, right now we would be spending \$60 billion more.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, it is long past the time since this Congress should be passing legislation to create a universal single-payer system of health care in the United States. This past week we saw General Motors cut \$1 billion a year in health care expenses for 750,000 auto workers and retirees. People who have worked every day of their lives and made a contribution to this society are suddenly finding their health care benefits drastically reduced.

Over 40 million Americans do not have health insurance. Millions more cannot afford to pay health insurance because they are finding premiums, co-pays, and deductibles rising. It is time that the government stepped in dramatically to create a single-payer system. It is time that we realize that health care is a basic right in our society. It is time that we saw that we are already paying for universal health care. We are not getting it. One out of every four dollars goes for the activities of the for-profit system, for corporate profits, advertising, marketing, the cost of paperwork, 20 to 30 percent.

It is time that we stood up for the American people and for the health of our people and passed H.R. 676, a universal single-payer health care system.

□ 1015

FISCAL SANITY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as a fiscal conservative, I rise today in relief that the Democrats have not been able to have their way with the Federal checkbook.

In fact, if they would have had their way with spending, a new report by the House Committee on Appropriations released yesterday shows they would have increased spending by more than \$60 billion over the past 3 years.

Before our Nation faced the challenges of the recent hurricanes, our Nation was on track to produce more and our government was spending less. In fact, last year Congress held nonsecurity discretionary spending to a 1 percent growth rate, far below inflation and the previous 5-year average growth of 6 percent. And last year, Congress held nonsecurity discretionary spending to a 1.4 percent growth rate, less than inflation and a major reduction from previous years.

Democrats, on the other hand, have no plan to reduce the deficit. While they complain about budget deficits, they propose billions more in new spending. Their only answer is to raise taxes in order to have more money to spend. That is not good for the family checkbook or the American economy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my Democratic colleagues to join me in restoring

ing fiscal sanity. In 1997 the House passed a deficit-reduction bill with 153 Democrat votes that saved billions. They should join us in a similar move now.

DISTORT THE TRUTH WEEK

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, it is Republican "tort reform week" in the House of Representatives. However, I think a more appropriate name would be "distort the truth week."

Two bills on this week's House calendar, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act and the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act unjustly slams the courthouse doors in the face of injured plaintiffs.

And why are we voting to shut the doors of courthouses to legitimate plaintiffs? So the Republican Party can give a gift to special interests and the fast food industry and the NRA. It is time to put a stop to this charade. If the goal is to prevent frivolous lawsuits, then punish the lawyers who file them. But if the goal is to give unscrupulous food companies and gun dealers free reign to make their products more dangerous, then by all means I urge my colleagues to support both bills.

However, my goal is to protect the American people, to ensure safe business practices in food production and in the gun industries and to preserve the integrity of our judicial system. That is why I am voting "no" on both the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act and the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RESPONSIBLE SPENDING

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, if the Democrats were in charge, as they would like, they would increase our spending this year by tens of billions of dollars. In fact, over the last 3 years Democrats have attempted to bust the discretionary budget by more than \$60 billion.

Where would we find the money for their additions for this astronomical amount? You know the answer because it is their answer to every single problem, higher taxes.

However, Republicans are looking for savings from other programs, not raising taxes on hard-working Americans. Being fiscally responsible is the only answer, not just spending more money. We have an obligation to the American people to restrain spending. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle had their way, they would spend billions of dollars on programs that sound perfectly wonderful; but, frankly, that

is what would be fiscally irresponsible and immoral.

My Republican colleagues and I realize the importance of fiscal restraint and financial responsibility, and we are working to find a solution that will not bury our children and grandchildren under mounds of debt. I urge my colleagues from across the aisle to join us in this responsible and moral initiative.

APRIL FOOL'S DAY COMES EARLY TO HOUSE

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, April Fool's Day has come early to the United States House of Representatives. The Republicans are in charge. They control everything, and in the last 5 years our debt has increased 60 percent to \$8 trillion. That is \$27,000 for every American. Well, not for every American, only for working Americans because the rich are exempt from taxes.

What they are talking about here, the hard-working Americans, the only people who got a pay raise last year, the people who earn over \$1.3 million a year.

Madam Speaker, 99 percent of the people in this country had their real incomes go down last year, but not that group. That is who the Republicans want to protect here. It is trickle-down economics. They say we need it now more than ever. How else are we going to recover from Hurricane Katrina? They want to give the wealthiest among us, the top one-tenth of 1 percent, the millionaires, tax breaks, and they will trickle-down on America.

Well, the people of the Southeast have been trickled down upon. And, in fact, some of them drowned because of the incompetence of these people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN DORN

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, a great South Carolinian, in fact a great American, William Jennings Bryan Dorn, passed away at the age of 89 on August 13, 2005. He represented the citizens of my district from 1947 to 1974, 13 terms, 26 years.

His list of accomplishments is long and impressive. Before coming to DC, he served as the youngest member of both the South Carolina House and the Senate, and was a proud veteran of World War II. During his service here on Capitol Hill, Dorn became chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and a strong advocate of military personnel. He worked on several